

SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0003] of the pending application with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] While the game of golf has remained more or less constant in the past half-millennium, the primary tool of the trade--the golf club--has remained anything but constant. Nevertheless, most golf clubs share similar principal characteristics. Referring now to Figure 1, the conventional golf club 100 includes a shaft 120 coupled to a club head 110 by way of a ~~housel~~ hosel 170. The shaft can include a grip 130 upon which the golfer can place the golfer's hands so as to firmly control the swing/stroke motion of the club. The club head 110 can include a primary surface referred to as a face 140 with which the club 100 can strike a golf ball. Additionally, the club 100 can include a club toe 150 at the end of the club 100 opposite the ~~housel~~ hosel 170, and a club heel 160, nearest the ~~housel~~ hosel 170. Ordinarily, but not always, only the face 140 serves as the purpose of striking a ball, through in some golf clubs, either or both of the toe 150 and heel 160 can be used as a striking surface as well.

Please replace Paragraph [0006] of the pending application with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] For many golfers, the mastery of the putter can differentiate a winning round of golf from a losing round of golf. Consequently, great attention to the construction and use of the putter has produced a multiplicity of different types of putters. Figures 2A through 2F illustrate three conventional putter designs which have enjoyed wide acceptance in the golfing community. As an example, Figures 2A and 2B are front

perspective and side perspective views of a Gibson putter known in the art. Crafted by William Gibson of Kinghorn, Scotland, the Gibson putter is a center shafted putter, even though the ~~hosel~~ hosel 210 is coupled to the club face 220 by way of the heel of the club face 220.

Please replace Paragraph [0007] of the pending application with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] As it will be apparent to the skilled artisan, it will be preferable to position the shaft of the putter over the center point of the club face so as to facilitate the aiming point of the putter when aligning the putter with the golf ball prior to stroking the golf ball towards the hole. Yet, to directly attach the ~~hosel~~ hosel to the center point of the club face can limit the placement of the putter shaft. Thus, where it is desirable to set the shaft towards or beyond the rear of the club head, it is preferred to couple the ~~hosel~~ hosel 210 of the putter to the club heel while allowing the shaft to be positioned in line with the center point of the club head 220 as illustrated in Figures 2A and 2B.

Please replace Paragraph [0008] of the pending application with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] Unlike the putter of Figures 2A and 2B, Figures 20 and 2D are front perspective and side perspective views of a Sprague putter in which the ~~hosel~~ hosel 210 is coupled directly to the center point of the club head 240. The Sprague putter, developed in 1904 by William W. Davis, includes not only a striking face at the front of

the club head, but also the club heel and club toe also include striking surfaces. In this regard, the ~~housel~~ hosel can be rotated about three hundred sixty degrees so that the preferred striking face can be selected.

Please replace Paragraph [0009] of the pending application with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] Historically, putters have not been limited to the simple designs of the Gibson and Sprague putters. Rather, many putters account for different putting methodologies outside of the conventional puffing methodology. As an example, - Figures 2E and 2F are front perspective and side perspective views of a Lift le Magician putter configured for croquet-style use. More particularly, the Little Magician putter can include a short shaft (not shown) attached in-line to a ~~housel~~ hosel 250 which has been coupled at a ninety degree angle to the club head 260. The club head 260 of the Little Magician can be weighted at the rear for a smooth stroke. More importantly, using a croquet-style stroke, a golfer can more accurately direct the golf ball towards the hole because the golfer can be positioned normally to the hole in line with the hole rather than tangentially resulting in greater aiming and control of the putter.

Please replace Paragraph [0010] of the pending application with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] Where the club head of a putter incorporates a specified striking face, the golfer can improperly direct the golf ball off target where the golfer strikes the

ball using a non-designated portion of the club. This circumstance can particularly arise where the club head strikes the ball at a point too close to the top or bottom of the club head, and too close to the club toe or club heel. One solution to the foregoing problem is to not establish a specific striking zone of the club head. In this regard, Figures 3A and 3B are front perspective and side perspective views of an Arlington putter configured with a cylindrical club head 310 coupled to a conventional ~~house~~ hose 320. By incorporating a cylindrical club head 310, it is more difficult for the golfer to strike a golf ball with a portion of the club head 310 likely to result in a misdirected putt. Moreover, the cylindrical head permits both left and right-handed putting as either side of the cylindrical head can be used to strike the golf ball.

Please replace Paragraph [0011] of the pending application with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] Inasmuch as the putting stroke includes the initiation of the stroke at a level above the turf and the completion of the stroke at a level above the turf, the stroking motion can result in unintentional duffing. Consequently, some have proposed putters which resist duffing. For instance, Figures 30 and 3D are front perspective and side perspective views of a Roller Golf Club putter which facilitates the rolling of the club head about the turf without incurring the consequences of duffing. The Roller Golf Club putter can include a ~~house~~ hose 330 coupled to a cylindrical club head 340 configured to rotate about the axis defined by the intersection of the ~~house~~ hose 330 and the pin 350. In addition to enjoying the advantage of a rolling club head, the Roller Golf Club also enjoys the advantages of other cylindrical heads in terms of a reduction in

misdirected putts. The Rollmatic Strokemaker putter illustrated in Figures 3E and 3F further -exemplifies elaborate attempts to incorporate a rotatable cylinder 380 within a putter head 370 coupled to a conventional ~~housel~~ hose 360 in order to reduce the risk of duffing during the putting stroke.

Please replace Paragraph [0017] of the pending application with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] A shuffle putter can include a shaft coupled to a club head. The shaft can extend substantially perpendicularly to the club head from above a central portion of the club head between a toe and a heel of the club head. The club head itself can include a non-specific striking surface disposed between the toe and the heel. For example, the club head can be a cylinder. Also, a runner can be affixed at each of the heel and the toe. Notably, a ~~housel~~ hose can be disposed between the shaft and the club head. For instance, the ~~housel~~ hose can be coupled to the club head at one of the heel, the toe, and substantially halfway between the heel and the toe. Moreover, the ~~housel~~ hose can form an acute angle with a horizontal plane defined by the club head at a point of coupling between the ~~housel~~ hose and the club head. Finally, the runners can be affixed to each end of the cylinder in a position offset from the vertex of the runners so as to facilitate the impartation of top spin or back spin to a golf ball.

Please replace Paragraph [0033] of the pending application with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] Figure 7 is ~~an exploded~~ a side view of the club head of the shuffle putter of Figure 6; and,

Please replace Paragraph [0035] of the pending application with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] The present invention is a shuffle putter. A shuffle putter which has been configured in accordance with the inventive arrangements can include a club head coupled to a ~~house~~ hosel at an angle conducive for applying a shuffleboard-style stroke. The club head can include a non-specific striking surface such as a surface having significant curvature. In operation, the golfer can stand adjacent to the golf ball facing the hole with the shuffle putter in hand and aligned directly behind the golf ball and resting on the turf. The golfer can draw the shuffle putter backwards away from the hole before reversing course and pushing the shuffle putter forwards towards the golf ball and the hole. The golfer can strike the golf ball between the toe and heel of the club head on the non-specific striking surface, preferable at the center of the non-specific striking surface between the toe and heel of the club head. In this way, the golf ball can be accurately driven towards the hole in a manner not possible with a conventional putter.

Please replace Paragraph [0036] of the pending application with the following amended paragraph:

[0036] Though many variations of the shuffle putter are contemplated in accordance with the present invention, at its core, the shuffle putter can include a club head having a non-specific striking surface coupled to a ~~house~~ hosel supporting a shaft

(or a shaft which has been directly coupled to the club head). The effective angle of ~~housel~~ hosel and shaft when positioned for use in putting can be that of an acute angle so as to facilitate a shuffle putting motion without resulting in forces tending to push the club head substantially into the turf. As an example, Figures 5A and 58 are front and side perspective views of a shuffle putter which has been configured in accordance with a basic aspect of the inventive arrangements. The shuffle putter of Figures 5A and 58 can include a ~~housel~~ hosel /shaft combination 510 coupled to a club head 520 having a non-specific striking surface 530. In the basic embodiment, the club head 520 can be a fixed, non-rotatable cylinder in which the non-specific striking surface 530 is comprised of the spherical surface of the cylinder.

Please replace Paragraph [0037] of the pending application with the following amended paragraph:

[0037]       Notably, in the basic embodiment of the present invention, neither the toe 540 of the club head 520, nor the heel 550 of the club head 520 forms a striking surface. Yet, it will be apparent to the skilled artisan that the shuffle putter can be used both in a left-handed and right-handed fashion wherein the non-specific striking surface 530 remains the spherical surface of the cylinder. In this regard, definitively identifying which end of the club head 520 is the toe 540 and which end of the club head 520 is the heel 550 is not possible. In either case, an accurate putt can be produced simply by striking a golf ball anywhere on the non-specific striking surface 530, regardless of the exact angle of the ~~housel~~ hosel /shaft combination 510 with respect to the turf. Ideally,

the non-specific striking surface 530 will contact the ball in the horizontal plane

substantially between the heel 550 and the toe 540.

Please replace Paragraph [0040] of the pending application with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] Many variations of the shuffle putter are contemplated and the invention is not limited strictly to the basic configuration illustrated in Figures 5A and SB. For example, an enhanced aspect of the shuffle putter is illustrated in Figures 5C and SD. The enhanced shuffle putter can include a ~~housel~~ hosel /shaft combination 560 coupled to a club head 570 having a non-specific striking surface. To enhance the surface area of the club head 570 able to function as the non-specific striking surface, runners 580 having a diameter which exceeds that of the club head 570 can be affixed to the heel and toe of the club head 570. The runners 580 include a vertex that extends along a longitudinal centerline or axis perpendicular to the surface affixed to the heel or toe of the club head 570. The runners 580 can be formed of the same material as that of the club head 570, though a non-stick, low friction surface such as ~~teflon~~ Teflon or carbon fiber derivative is preferred. In this way, the club head 570 and more particularly, the non-specific striking surface, can be elevated above the turf so as to expose more surface area for use as the non-specific striking surface. Moreover, as less surface area of the club will remain in contact with the turf, the forces produced by the frictional contact between the runners 580 and the turf which tend to resist the shuffleboard-style stroke can be reduced substantially. Thus, the opportunity for duffing can be completely eliminated.



Please replace Paragraph [0044] of the pending application with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] To further illustrate this aspect of the invention, Figure 7 is an ~~exploded~~ a side view of the club head of the shuffle putter of Figure 6. As it will be apparent from Figure 7, the shaft 710 can be coupled to the cylinder 730 at a specific angle with respect to the ground and with respect to the vertex of the runners 720. The runners 720 can be coupled to the cylinder 730 by way of a bolt which can frictionally secure the runners 720 to the cylinder. Alternatively, the runners 720 can be secured to the cylinder 730 by way of a ratcheting mechanism. In either circumstance, the runners 720 can be rotatably adjusted about the vertex of the cylinder 720 (as opposed to the vertex of the runners 720 so as to modify the angle formed between the shaft 710 and the putting surface and the vertex of the runners 720 respectively. In this way, different spins and spin intensities can be applied to the golf ball depending upon the physical characteristics of the operator and the angle at which the operator holds the shaft 710 with respect to the putting surface.